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Sheffield TIMES



Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol.VI, Issue 3 Jan/Feb 2007

SHEFFIELD MASTER PLAN IN 2007: OPEN SPACE PLAN, HOUSING, MORE

A lot of community master plans are produced by consultants and given to town officials, then sit gathering dust on a shelf in town hall. Two years after its creation, Sheffield's Master Plan which was produced by residents in consultation with a consultant is gathering no dust. Thanks to the hard work and donated time of dozens of Sheffield residents and business owners, the town is making steady progress on the recommendations and priorities identified in the plan that was made available to all town residents two years ago for public comment. The final version of the plan is available at Town Hall.

For those not familiar with the master plan process, the goal of such a plan is to let a community decide what it wants its future to be rather than being overtaken



Preserving Sheffield's rural character is a priority of Sheffield's Master Plan

by events and helter-skelter development. It asks "What do we want our community to be in 10 years?" The hope is that the

process of creating a plan, as well as the plan itself, will energize people to get involved and help realize a shared vision—and that has been the case in Sheffield.

The community's very clear answer to the question about Sheffield's future was for it to remain a healthy rural commu-

nity—"retain Sheffield's rural character," as people said again and again in a communi-

Continued on page 3

VOTERS APPROVE ALL ARTICLES AT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

At the special town meeting held on Dec. 4, the 98 voters who attended enthusiastically approved all articles of the warrant for the meeting. Several of the votes were unanimous.

The first article expanded the membership of the Council on Aging to nine members. Three more approved additions to the budget for the 2007 fiscal year—\$4,500 for the American Legion, \$8,000 for inspectional services and \$3,025 for the Board of Assessors. Another provides that a member of a town board, committee or commission shall not be disqualified from voting on a matter due to the member's having missed a single session of an adjudicatory hearing provided that the absent member certifies that he or she has examined all

evidence presented at the missed session.

The remaining articles dealt with zoning matters and, as such, required the favorable vote of at least two-thirds of the voters attending the meeting (the others needed only a simple majority vote). One zoning-related article replaced the existing Zoning By-laws in their entirety with an updated version.

Others adopted a new town zoning map; changed the definition of "common driveway" to apply to any driveway that will service more than one lot; require the submission of a Detailed Development Analysis report for any application for special permit in the Commercial District or in the General Business District that will involve the construction or occupancy of 10,000 or more square feet of gross

floor area or the exclusive dedication of more than 10 acres; and adopted "boarding house" as a use permitted by a special permit in the Village Center District.

Altogether, the zoning by-law changes effected a complete reformatting and updating of the old by-laws, making them consistent with a decade of state and federal laws and court decisions. They are now easier to use and understand, and lay the foundation for future updates and amendments implementing the master plan.

Rene Wood, chair of the Planning Board, once again wishes to recognize and extend deep thanks to members of the Zoning By-Laws Revision subcommittee, Tom Matuszko of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and Town Counsel Sally Bell.

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ty-wide survey, multiple public forums and smaller surveys. Specifics of that desire were spelled out in the two years of work that led to the initial draft, with a steering committee and four subcommittees covering housing; open space, agricultural, natural, historic and recreational resources; transportation and municipal facilities; and economic development.

That draft plan, created with much public input including a town-wide meeting two years ago, was accepted by the Selectmen and then reviewed, finalized and approved by the Planning Board, as required by the state. (The state spells out a master plan process that makes a community's Planning Board the implementing agency.)

Many aspects of a master plan can be implemented without official funding or involvement, taken up by organizations, businesses and individuals who are interested in those areas. For instance, one recommendation of the Sheffield plan is to enhance the village center. Currently, the Sheffield Historical Society and Gulotta's Mobil Station are leading efforts, collaborating with the town, to spruce up the area around Town Hall. (If you know of other such efforts, let the *Sheffield Times* know, and we'll report on them.)

Other aspects require some professional assistance. The town, through the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen, has applied for and received several grants from the state for help in implementing the master plan, including two Smart Growth Technical Assistance grants (see the story on page 17 for the status of the latest such grant).

With that help, Sheffield has been working to update its zoning by-laws (the story on page 1 recounts the most recent phase of this work). It has adopted a right-to-farm bylaw and created an agricultural commission to help support the agricultural landscape and economy that is the foundation of the town's rural character. And it has identified a location for a new Senior Center, creating a committee to oversee its design and construction as well as hiring an architect (see the Selectmen's minutes notes on page 14).

Currently, work on the master plan is being overseen by the Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee, which is co-chaired by Bart Elsbach and Julie Hanum, representing the Planning Board and



Hancock Shaker Village. The event was put on by the MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources and the Berkshire-Pioneer Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc., and co-sponsored by many organizations including Berkshire Grown, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Mass Farm Bureau, Sheffield Land Trust, and the USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service.

the Board of Selectmen. It also includes Tammy Blackwell, Peter Cherneff, Harry Conklin, Frank Garretson, John James, Kathy Orlando, Don Ward and John Wightman.

As reported in previous issues, that committee has created two subcommittees to work on two of the high priorities identified in the Master Plan—updating Sheffield's Open Space and Recreation Plan and addressing its housing needs.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan subcommittee includes a cross-section of the town: Tammy Blackwell, Bill Connell, Anna James, Jim Kelly, Peter Kinne, Jimmy Larkin, Allison Lasso, Twiggs Meyers, Kathy Orlando, Jenny Russell and John Wightman, with added input and guidance from Andy Peterson and Don Ward. They are working on a final draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, required by the state for every town and last updated in Sheffield in 1987, before seeking public input. With that plan, the town will be eligible for additional state funding to help enhance not only its recreational, agricultural, ecological and scenic resources, but also its infrastructure and other capital needs.

The subcommittee will be coordinating with the Conservation Commission to get public comment in early 2007 before submitting the plan to the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen for endorsement and the state for approval. Not surprisingly, the plan looks for

ways to preserve Sheffield's rural character, by enhancing agricultural resources and recreational opportunities (for instance, a trail network in the center of town to eventually link the Town Park and Town Hall), identifying important areas to preserve and locating sources of funding.

The Housing subcommittee, recently expanded, similarly represents a wide variety of Sheffield citizenry: Peter Cherneff, Glenn DeVoti, Frank Garretson, Anna James, John James, Maggie Martin, Paul O'Brien, Kathy Orlando, Annie Ryder and Don Ward. It's seeking ways to address the challenges presented by the ever-increasing cost of homes in Sheffield and the region. To grapple with this problem, the committee has looked at strategies used by other small towns. It is exploring possibilities such as creating housing on town property in collaboration with the school, allowing accessory apartments and converting large houses into multi-family residences. One of the zoning by-law changes just approved at the town meeting allows "boarding houses" in the town center, which can encourage innovative living arrangements, such as the retirement residence proposed by the Sheffield Inn.

Anyone who wants to provide input into the Master Plan's current or future work is welcome to attend any of the meetings. They are open to the public and posted at Town Hall and on the town web site. Or contact any committee members with your comments or suggestions.

On Dec. 9, six members of the Sheffield Agricultural Commission—(from left to right) Kathy Orlando, Dave Smith, Dominic Palumbo, Kim Kelly, Morven Allen and Jimmy Larkin—attended the Western Massachusetts Agricultural Commission training session at

NEW DIRECTOR NAMED FOR SENIOR CENTER

In early December Sheffield's Board of Selectmen chose Sheffield resident John Arthur Miller from a group of 11 applicants to be the next director of the Sheffield Senior Center. Miller is taking over from Rae Eastman, the previous director, who retired after 7½ years of service. The position is part-time, 20 hours a week. Barbara Fletcher will continue as the center's assistant director.

The Senior Center is now located in Dewey Hall on the Green in the center of Sheffield. A new facility is being planned on donated land between Cook Road and Old Mill Road behind the American Legion Hall farther north on Route 7.

JOHN ARTHUR MILLER LOOKS FORWARD TO THE POSSIBILITIES

Monday, Dec. 11, was the first official workday for John Arthur Miller as director of the Senior Center. John Arthur is excited about his new position, seeing it as an opportunity to contribute to the community he has called home since 2001, when he and his wife Trudy bought the brick house on Main St. just a stone's throw from Dewey Hall. They were familiar with the area when they moved here five years ago because for the previous 15 years they had commuted to Sheffield each summer to sing and sometimes be on the faculty of the Berkshire Choral Festival, held at Berkshire School.

John Arthur's career has been as a professional vocal musician, mostly in New York City. He believes that his background in the performing arts has prepared him for his new role by giving him the communication skills he feels are crucial to this job. He describes himself as "approachable, discreet, sincere and trustworthy," characteristics he hopes will help seniors feel comfortable with him. He says that he is as passionate about this new job as he was about performing. Working with the Council on Aging, he hopes to help the town best use its resources for the benefit of its senior residents.

John Arthur separates his new responsibilities into four main categories:



John Arthur Miller, the new director of the Senior Center, and Rae Eastman, the outgoing director

ries: (1) office management such as file maintenance, grant applications and volunteer recruitment and training; (2) community outreach such as welcoming newcomers, checking up on the sick and disseminating information through the monthly newsletter; (3) planning special programs such as trips or musical events and organizing ongoing activities at the center, which now include exercise classes and various health clinics; and (4) building relationships with other community organizations such as Elder Services, SHINE and the Council on Aging (see box) and town organizations such as the Friendly Union, the Library, the Sheffield Association, and the churches. He is particularly excited about building intergenerational bridges through events such as the annual luncheon prepared by the high school culinary students. This event is so popular it has had to be limited to 100 seniors.

"We are in this together," he says. "A small town is like a family and we have responsibilities to each other. There are so many possibilities in this community for people to help people."

John Arthur will also serve on the Senior Center Building Committee, appointed by the Board of Selectmen to work with the architectural firm Rein-

hardt Associates in the design and construction of the new Senior Center. He says that just as the senior community functions as a "surrogate family" for many, a new center will provide a "home" for more activities and relationships, both of which are important for the physical, mental and spiritual health

of the elderly. He looks forward to working with the entire community to explore expanded opportunities for our seniors.

John Arthur will also keep his current part-time position as a bus driver for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

RAE EASTMAN LOOKS FORWARD TO RETIREMENT

In her nearly eight years as director of the Senior Center, Rae Eastman explored new ways to respond to the needs of Sheffield seniors and developed new programs to enrich their lives. On Dec. 14 she bid the center farewell. Although she will be busy in her retirement, she plans to come back to Sheffield from her home in Lakeville, CT, to visit her many friends in town.

Rae came to the center with experience as an editor, literary agent, educational advisor and arts administrator. It was her first experience working with seniors, and she found it challenging. Of the many contributions she has made, she is particularly proud of the increased number and variety of programs. Under her leadership, lunches have been followed by professional musical, drama and speaking programs. Some of the new events brought school children and seniors together, including the annual luncheon provided for seniors by high school culinary students. Bus trips have included visits to the Erie Canal, the

Moscow Boys Choir in Springfield, mansions on the Hudson, the Culinary Institute of America, the Ice Capades and a hibachi restaurant.

Approximately 140 seniors are served by the center now, through these and other programs such as the physical fitness class or the knitting group. Recently, Rae initiated the "Memories Project," a writing class that will meet once a week for 10 weeks, starting in February, under the leadership of poet Irene Willis. Participants will examine their lives and learn how best to record their memories in writing. (Those interested can call the center at 229-7022 for more information.)

When asked what areas she would particularly like to see developed over the next few years, Rae mentioned the volunteer program. Many volunteers currently give time to the center. Some are drivers for the Meals on Wheels program, some help at center luncheons, some do office work, others do home visits or help drive seniors to appointments. Not long ago, Rae surveyed area residents and found that there are many people with all kinds of skills and experiences who could contribute to the center, its seniors and the community in other, yet unexplored ways. The center has only just begun to draw on material from these surveys.

Although there is much that Rae

will miss about her experiences at the Senior Center, she will be 80 next July and she is looking forward to the next phase of her life, relieved to be free of administrative responsibilities so she can explore other interests. Those include music (in the past, she was a singer and pianist), writing (she currently writes travelogues and does copy editing and proofreading for the Sheffield Times and she hopes to expand endeavors in this field) and travel. In January she

will visit Prague, the trip a gift from the Manhattan String Quartet Coaching Program from which she recently retired as administrator, a position she had held for 18 years.

During her last week at the Center, she was "overwhelmed" by both the farewell luncheon, which included a chorus and a tea that was held in her honor. She says she is "so grateful for those expressions of affection and appreciation."

—Ellen Rowntree

SHEFFIELD'S ELDER-CARE AGENCIES

Elder Services of Berkshire County is a regional social service agency that is financed by the state. It oversees SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders), Meals on Wheels, Money Management and a host of other programs, including home care, caregiver relief and case managers who visit to assess the needs of seniors as required. These services are made available to all senior centers in the county.

The Sheffield Council on Aging, which is appointed by the Selectmen, acts as a policy-making board for the Sheffield Senior Center. The COA oversees the activities of the Senior Center director, who reports to them monthly. The COA meets monthly and representatives frequently attend the Selectmen's meetings. Pauline Schumann is currently the chair of the COA for Sheffield.

The Senior Center is a town entity. Its director and assistant director are hired by the Selectmen and Town Administrator. Their salaries are included in the Senior Center budget (currently about \$41,000), which is approved annually at the town meeting as part of the Town budget. This is supplemented by a grant from the state (currently \$4,100), which is based on the number of seniors in the community. The Senior Center runs the local Meals on Wheels program as well as physical fitness programs, health clinics, cultural programs, luncheons, and trips.

—E. R.

TEN THOUSAND LIGHTS IN ASHLEY FALLS

If you're a kid, the best thing about the giant Christmas tree on the Village Green in Ashley Falls is being under the branches, looking up and staring at the lights. If you're a kid at heart and joined the crowd at this year's tree lighting and saw all those kids running around under the tree staring up at the lights dazzling and dancing in the wind, you couldn't help but have that holiday feeling of warmth and remembrance. I remember as a kid being taken to a giant holiday tree, so big hundreds of people stood under the branches and tens of thousands of lights lit up the sky and the ground and the people. All those Ashley Falls kids, running around under the tree, loud and happy, eating all those good homemade cookies, make the hassle and headache of making sure the lights work year after year worth it.

Big thank yous to everyone who made all those good cookies and to Aiden Cas-

sidy and Charles Teti for the hot cocoa. Bruce Howden and David Prouty once again provided the hay-wagon rides (next year: heated hay bales). Thanks too to Mary Blaise, who pulled the winning ticket from the punch bowl, to Bob Pasquilina, this year's official winner and reigning switch flipper, to John Arthur and Trudy Miller, our very own Bing and Judy, and to Jack Blume, our master electrician who, despite storms and squirrels and corrosive bird poop, always makes sure the lights go on. To the villagers of Ashley Falls and uptownies of Sheffield who made donations, the biggest thank you. Without your financial support, darkness. Every bulb on the tree represents each and every one of you! Thank you!

Reminder: the Ashley Falls "On and Off the Green Tag Sale" returns Sat., May 19. Save the date and participate. Happy 2007! Enjoy and prosper.

—Richard Cherneff



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ALI WINSTON, INNKEEPER EXTRAORDINAIRE

"The hospitality at Staveleigh House is deeper and more thoughtful than any you will find anywhere else."

When House and Garden magazine wrote that about Staveleigh House, they were really writing about its innkeeper, Ali Winston. Ali, who pronounces her first name with a broad "Ah" and the accent on the "i," is a whirlwind of energy whose charm and warmth can be felt with her first "hello." She has cropped salt-and-pepper hair, a twinkle in her eyes and a smile that brightens her whole face. Guests return to Sheffield because they love the Berkshires, but they return to the Staveleigh House on Main St. because of her.

Ali grew up in Sharon, MA, in the 50s and 60s in a Sephardic Jewish family. She attributes her interest in world cultures to the diverse backgrounds of her family members—they came from Morocco and Russia, Georgia and Ukraine when they were part of the USSR, and she heard many different languages spoken at home. It was likely this heritage that influenced her decision to major in anthropology at Smith College, which she attended on a full scholarship.

For a short time after college, Ali had an antiques business in Lee that specialized in estate jewelry and small collectibles. She believes this early experience nurtured her desire to collect, and years later, when she had her bed and breakfast, she was finally able to display all her cherished objects. But Ali needed a life change and so she closed her Lee business and moved to Israel for three years.

In Israel, she first worked for the now-famous Gottex swimwear company, which in the 1970s was still basically a mom-and-pop operation. Then Bo Derek wore a Gottex bathing suit in the movie "10," and the company became a global name. Ali translated for them and even did some swimsuit modeling. As she laughingly puts it, "Those were the days when a Marilyn Monroe figure was the ideal. No one wanted Twiggy to show their bathing suits!"

While in Israel, she also worked



Ali Winston by the fireplace in historic Staveleigh House

with Holocaust survivors at a kibbutz. "These were elderly people who had been through so much. I used music, dance and art to help them express themselves. I really did some good there."

When she returned to the U.S., a friend invited her to the Berkshires and she embarked on still another career. Ali started a unique housecleaning and gardening business that was staffed by women—many of them single mothers—who worked part-time and took turns caring for each others' children. It was during this time that Ali decided that she wanted a child of her own and at age 42, she began the adoption process.

"In the 1990s, Guatemala was very friendly towards American parents who wanted to adopt children, including single moms like me, so I went down there with a friend who spoke fluent Spanish." The adoption process took a year, Ali relates, but at last it was finalized and she brought home her six-month-old baby boy. He had a shock of black hair and big, dark eyes, and she kept his birth name, Sergio.

When Sergio was three, Ali decided it was time for yet another life-change

and this time, she set her sights on buying a bed and breakfast. One day, while looking in a realty magazine, she saw a for-sale ad for Staveleigh House in Sheffield, and she went to look at it.

"It had been snowing a lot when I went to see it with my friend Mike Michaud, who is a builder," she says, "and there were these huge snow banks all around it. Everything looked so 'New England!' and I just loved it!"

She loved Staveleigh House so much that she decided to buy it. Even though everyone—including the bank—thought she was crazy to take on such a huge responsibility, Ali decided to go through with it.

"They all said I was crazy to adopt a child from Guatemala as a single parent and that turned out so well, so why not take on an inn!"

Ali liked the town of Sheffield and felt she and Sergio would feel at home there. She also liked the two women, Marian Whitman and Dorothy Marosy, who had started Staveleigh House in 1983 and who had so lovingly maintained the inn.

So, in 2001, Ali became the very

proud new owner of the inn whose original structure was first built for a young minister from Dartmouth in 1818. That minister, James Bradford, was the third pastor of Old Parish Church, and he lived there for 25 years with his wife and seven children. The original building, which was a plain colonial, was half the size of the current house. In the 1890s, Harry Andrew Staveleigh bought the house, modernized and expanded it, built the grand staircase and added the ornate hearth and fireplace mantle and had the name Staveleigh carved into the mantle.

In the years since she bought the inn, Ali has put her own imprint on the house, while trying to keep its traditional flavor. She repainted it and added private baths, remodeled the kitchen, and finally had a place to showcase the china, glassware and other treasures she so lovingly collects. She considers the style of her B & B as "sophisticated country."

Ali's story, however, doesn't just have the happy finale of a terrific new son and a wonderful old country inn. A few days before she closed on Staveleigh House, Marian and Dorothy, the previous owners, had a farewell party and invited local people to meet the new owner. One of the guests was a local attorney, Harry Conklin, who was famous throughout the town for his white walrus moustache and his ubiquitous suspenders. Harry later confessed that he came to the party "because I knew there would be good food there."

Three months after the party, Harry left some homegrown dahlias on Ali's doorstep with his business card. Ali reciprocated by leaving him a basket of food. Their courtship began in a traditional New England manner and, ignoring the 21st century e-mail style of correspondence, they wrote actual letters to one another. They were married on September 21, 2003.

The new Winston-Conklin family needed more space so Ali recently

built an addition for their private use. Both the men in her life are an integral part of the inn—Sergio likes meeting new people and Harry is the "fruit and coffee man" on the weekends. And although many innkeepers begin to burn out in a few years, Ali is still excited about Staveleigh House and can't see herself doing anything else. She still

enjoys welcoming the many interesting, well-traveled and well-read people who are guests in her home and delights in serving them her home-made breakfasts. And her guests keep returning because they love the hospitality, accommodations—and the food—Ali Winston has for them at Staveleigh House.

—Judith Schumer

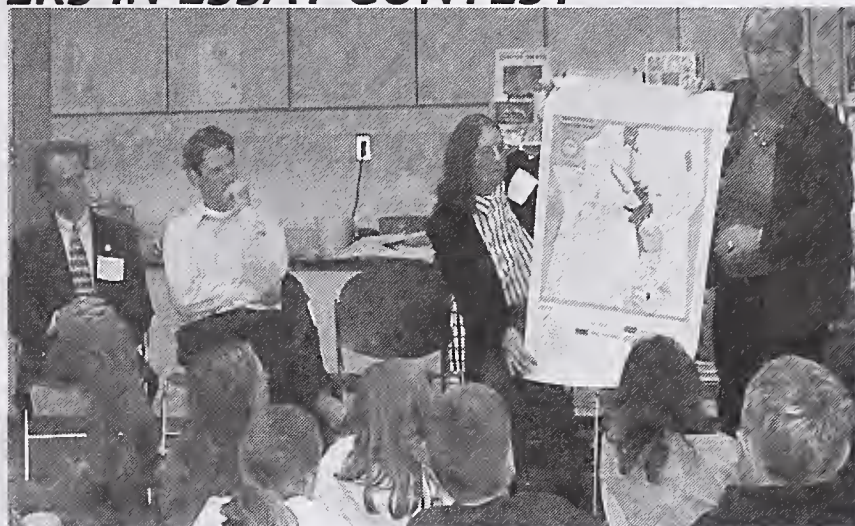
SIXTH-GRADERS IN ESSAY CONTEST

The Town of Sheffield was selected by the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) as one of 50 communities to participate in its first-ever sixth grade essay contest, a pilot program that is expected to be open to all 352 Massachusetts cities and towns in the future. Students were asked to write a 300-word essay on

the topic "If I were elected leader in my community, I'd make a difference by..."

To introduce the idea of municipal leadership, Sheffield Selectwoman Julie Hannum worked with Undermountain Elementary School sixth-grade teachers Dora Hage and Steve Small to arrange for a panel of local leaders to speak to the students before the writing project was assigned.

Hannum contacted the Boards of Selectmen in the towns that send students to Undermountain Elementary—Alford, Egremont, Monterey, New



Above, "Smitty" Pignatelli, state representative for our region, and Selectboard members Jonathan Sylbert from Monterey, Tara White from New Marlborough, and Julie Hannum from Sheffield present an area map at a student forum on municipal leadership at Undermountain Elementary School. Below, "Smitty" Pignatelli signs autographs for the kids. Teacher Steve Small looks on at left.

Marlborough, and Mt. Washington—to invite them to participate in the student forum. Jonathan Sylbert from Monterey, Tara White from New Marlborough and special guest State Representative Smitty Pignatelli joined Hannum on Oct. 24 for a 90-minute class visit.

Some 50 essays were submitted to the state from Undermountain sixth-graders. The top three state winners will be awarded certificates and monetary prizes. The first-place winner will win an expense-paid trip to Boston to read his/her essay at the MMA Annual Conference in January.

Additionally, if one of the winners is from Undermountain School, the class will receive a pizza party hosted by Representative Pignatelli.

Sheffield is the only town in Smitty's district participating in the contest, with Dalton being the only other Berkshire County town involved.

—Julie Hannum



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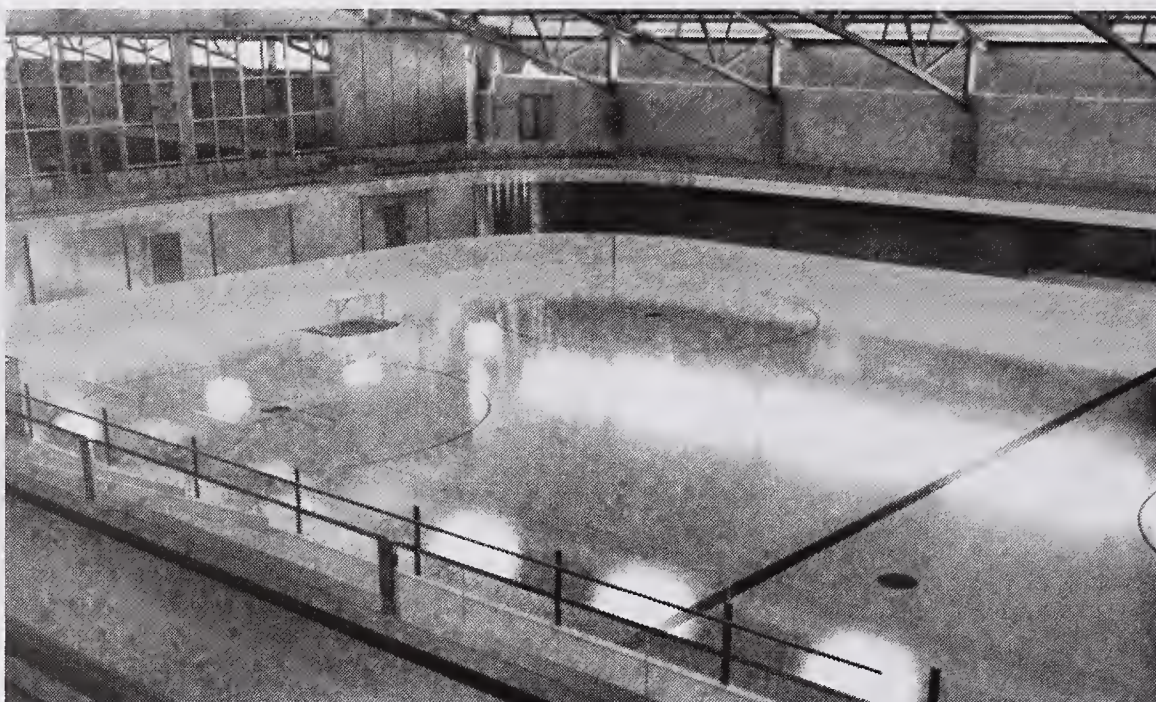
BERKSHIRE SCHOOL GETS OK FOR NEW RINKS

Berkshire School has received verbal approval from the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection to develop two new hockey rinks and a service road around the campus. Construction may begin as early as this spring, according to Tim Fulco, director of the school's physical plant.

"We're hoping to have the permits for construction soon, and the contractors will bid on the job," said Fulco, a Sheffield resident and 1978 graduate of Berkshire whose two daughters attend the school. "Once we have the contractor, then the cost of the project should come in late January. Construction will begin in the spring, weather permitting."

The construction was on hold because the school was waiting for the approval of building permits from the state agency and the Sheffield Conservation Commission. Hearings have been held with the latter agency, Fulco said, and Berkshire is awaiting a written order of conditions from that local board.

One new rink will be 200 by 95 feet—Berkshire's current rink is 185 by 85—while the second rink will measure 190 by 90. The two rinks will be located north of Stewart Pitch, on the site of the former softball field and the current maintenance building, which will be razed and rebuilt to the north. The service road will run north from the current



The architect's rendering of the larger of two new rinks planned for Berkshire School, as seen from the press box. (Courtesy Moser-Pilon-Nelson Architects and Designers CADD Company, Inc.).

location of the green security building and connect with the top of the driveway.

Construction on the rinks is expected to take about 18 months, meaning the facilities could be ready for the winter of 2008-09. Architects for the project are Moser-Pilon-Nelson of Wethersfield, CT.

The new rinks are part of an ambitious master plan approved by the school's trustees last winter. Other plans call for a new dormitory with 40 rooms

and four faculty apartments, a new math and science building on the current site of Memorial Hall and Allen Dormitory, and a new fine and performing arts center where the current hockey rink is. Plans are underway for a capital campaign that will pay for and endow the buildings. —Nathan Cannon

Nathan Cannon, a day student from Canaan, Conn., is a senior at Berkshire School.

DECKERS CELEBRATE 60TH ANNIVERSARY



Ruth and Mo Decker

Maurice ("Mo") and Ruth Decker of Pike Rd. celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Oct. 5, and 75 people attended the party.

Mo, a native of Stockbridge, worked for the Massachusetts Highway Dept. for 32 years. He is a regular at PJ's morning "coffee club." Ruth hails from Maine. Mo and Ruth met at a dance at the Grange in Stockbridge. They moved to Sheffield in 1988.

The Deckers have five children, 12 grandchildren and six great grandchildren,

with at least one more on the way. Mo is active in community affairs, being a member of the VFW, Kiwanis, the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion. Ruth is a member of the VFW auxiliary. —Peter Rowntree

Celebrating?

If you or someone you know is celebrating an important birthday, anniversary or other significant event, let the *Sheffield Times* know at sheffielddtimes@hotmail.com and we'll try to cover it.

CHURCH NEWS

Old Parish

Benefit concert features the Joint Chiefs. First Congregational Church, UCC, or Old Parish, continues to be a venue for community concerts. The next event features the Joint Chiefs and will be presented by Neighborgoods on Jan. 13 at 7pm. Have a good time while helping close the gap on the Capital Campaign.

The Joint Chiefs—Eliot Osborn, Louise Lindenmeyr and George Potts—are a folksy group from the northwest corner of Connecticut that, since 1995, has been playing original songs and cover tunes from the Beatles to Spanish love songs. Using accompaniment of accordion, mandolin, guitar and foot box, the trio sings in great harmony. Tickets are \$10 at Neighborgoods before the show, \$12 at the door (kids 5 to 12, \$7).

Get a preview on Sun., Jan 7, at Old Parish's 10am service. George will be singing a special request! The band's two CDs are also available at Neighborgoods.

The excellent acoustics in Old Parish Church have pleased all the musicians as well as audiences. Future concerts are planned, and suggestions for performances are welcome. Call the church office at 229-8173.

Missionary benefit. The congregation has long supported a senior center in India founded by a missionary who had visited our church in the past. To raise



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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ASHLEY FALLS

Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational)

355 Clayton Road (413) 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442.
Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided; Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)

1156 Ashley Falls Road (413) 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Pastor Betty LeGeyt

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist)

North Street (413) 528-4197
Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

270 State Road (413) 528-6378
Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service; Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study.
Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

Trinity Lutheran

198 Main Street
(413) 528-1330. Sunday: 9am Sunday Worship. Rev. Steve Edmiston

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

Meet at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main Street (413) 528-4850; home (413) 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm. Rev. Kathy Duhon

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church (Episcopal)

180 Main Street (413) 229-8811
Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & childcare; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder.

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

Route 7 & Kellogg Road (413) 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Faith Baptist

640 North Main Street (413) 229-0400 Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School; 10:45am Worship Service; 6pm Bible Study; Wednesday: 7pm Mid-week Service; Pastor L.V. Morris.

Old Parish (Congregational)

125 Main Street (413) 229-8173 Sunday: 10am Worship. Interim Pastor: Frances Ruthven; Sunday School, 10am

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)

Maple Avenue (413) 229-3028; Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. John S. Lis

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)

1970 N. Main Street, (413) 528-2911. www.sheffieldchapel.org. 10:45am Sunday Morning Worship. 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Tuesdays: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: Keith Becker

funds for this commitment, a supper and talent show has been presented for several years. The community is invited to join in this year's fun on Feb. 17 at 5:30pm. Last year's theme, "Mardi Gras," was so popular it will be repeated. The supper will feature jambalaya, red beans and rice and other tasty southern dishes. The show will feature New Orleans music and talent. Call 229-8173 for reservations.

Youth group meeting. The next meeting is Jan. 7.

Christ Church

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Come

and join your friends for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Christ Church Episcopal in Sheffield. This year's celebration falls on Tues., Feb. 20, from 5-7 pm. The entire meal is planned, cooked, and served by the men and boys of the parish and the proceeds will go toward the Heifer Project, a charity that seeks to alleviate world hunger and poverty by giving families a source of food, such as a cow, rather than short-term relief. There is parking in front of and behind the church.

For more information, call the church office at 229-8811.

HOURS

Tuesday-Thursday	10-5
Friday	10-8
Saturday	10-5
Sunday	2-5
Monday	Closed

LOCAL AUTHORS DAY DRAWS A CROWD

On Nov. 4, 58 writers and illustrators appeared at the Bushnell-Sage Library for the fourth annual Local Authors Day celebration. The enthusiasm of the authors and of the volunteers who worked so diligently to make the day a smashing success filled the library with chatter and mirth. An estimated 250 visitors attended.

Preparations for Authors Day begin each year in July when the invitations go out. Because there are approximately 240 published authors within 15 miles of the center of Sheffield, acceptances are limited to the first 50 who reply. This year, the invitations went out on one weekend, and all spaces were filled by the next one. (To accommodate as many as possible, the planners this year decided to count joint authors and authors/illustrators as a single person.)

As with previous Authors Days, coffee was served for the writers before the public arrived at 10am. Such a buzz! Old friends greeted each other or met writers they had not known before. There were children's authors, mystery writers, historians, poets and playwrights. Eighteen authors were new to the event this year, six of them discovered by perusing the titles on the bookshelves at Caitlin Hotaling's Neighborgoods store. Ten couples attended where both spouses were authors.

The top two floors of the library were used. Greeters directed patrons to the upstairs group first. John Toffey, John Hockenberry, Dennis Watlington and Jim Bouton seated together near the elevator door created a traffic jam and a lot of laughter.

Volunteers worked hard to make the event run smoothly. Rose Tannenbaum, illustrator of the book *Theo* by Christine Sierau, volunteered to help with the publicity. She designed the logo for the newspaper ads and created a postcard for authors to send out to their friends advertising the event. Rosemary Jette of *The Paper* in Hillsdale, NY, helped authors of new books this year get copies of their books to Ruth Bass who writes reviews for *The Paper's* November issue.

Melissa Joyce and Laurie Briggs, who chaired the morning coffee, used the Children's Activity Room as their central site for all the goodies Inez Flinn had arranged for her army of Sheffield ladies to bake for the occasion. Pam Bloodworth, Barbara

Burns and Kathy Ness produced a fantastic luncheon at the end of the program for all the participants and their spouses. Inez Flinn, along with Norma Moulton and Martha Greene, had put in many hours preparing the luncheon favors, which were bags of apples donated by Windy Hill Farm. Inez, Norma and Gig Babson were instrumental in keeping the trays of refreshments and coffee urns filled all during the event.

President of the Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library, Patrick Owen Burns, and Selectman Julie Hannum acted as greeters at the door. Town administrator Bob Weitz and Tom Young directed the parking of cars all morning. Trustee Peter Rowntree was the official photographer. Library staff members Nory Loeung and Anne Dunn graciously helped people with questions at the desk after putting in extra hours printing nametags and table place cards. Audry Yapple gave them a hand. Trustee Susan Young and Library Director Nancy Hahn patrolled the library checking that no detail was overlooked.

The Trustees and Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library are privileged to sponsor this exciting cultural event honoring our region's gifted writers and illustrators. Authors Day is a success because so many people in Sheffield contribute their time and energy. Many thanks to all who helped. —Susan Young



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RECOMMENDED READING

A Time of Gifts and Between the Woods and the Water by **Patrick Leigh Fermor** (New York Review of Books, 1979 and 2005, respectively).

These two volumes—unfamiliar to most American readers—are thought by many critics to be classics of modern English literature. They are at the top of my list of the most charming and literate of the ever-expanding genre of adventure travel books. They record the first two legs of Fermor's epic journey mainly on foot across Europe to Constantinople (Istanbul). It began in December 1933 (about 10 months after Hitler came to power) when the author was only 19. He returned to England in January 1937.

An Anglo-Irishman, Fermor is, among many other things, a writer, a naturalist, a linguist, a philologist, an artist, a historian, a horseman and a war hero. (In 1943 or thereabouts, he led a band of British soldiers who, dressed in German uniforms, kidnapped the general commanding the Axis forces occupying Crete, drove their captive in his own staff car through numerous enemy checkpoints and ultimately smuggled him away to Cairo.)

He kept diaries of his travels but put them aside for almost half a century before he got around to writing the books. The first was published in 1977 and the second in 1986 (he was then 71). A third, covering the last 500 miles to Constantinople, has yet to appear.

With only a few English pounds in his pocket, he set off from London, crossed the English Channel to Holland and walked to Cologne. From there he followed the Rhine upstream (hitching a ride on a string of river barges for part of the way) to southeastern Germany, the Danube and on to Vienna. From there he followed the Danube to what was then Czechoslovakia (taking a side trip to Prague by train) and Hungary (through which he traveled for a week or so on a borrowed horse), and then Serbia and Rumania. The second book ends in Bulgaria with the words "TO BE CONCLUDED."

Along the way Fermor met an astonishing variety of people ranging from the lowest classes (peasants, tramps, workmen and petty smugglers and other shady characters) to the middle (shopkeepers, tradesmen, burgers and professionals) and on to the upper ranks of society. When he was not sleeping in the rough, he had little trouble finding food and lodging. One night he would sleep in a gypsy encampment, a stable, a workhouse or above a shop and the next (in borrowed boiled shirt, white tie and tails) at a dinner dance in some baron's castle where he would spend a week or more. Many of his patrician hosts would provide him with letters of introduction to their equally noble friends and relatives along his projected route, all of whom welcomed him with open arms.

This hospitality seems to have a lot to do with centuries-old traditions of offering bed and board to itinerant pilgrims, students and other impecunious travelers. But that does not explain the extraordinary lengths to which people went to help and entertain Fermor. He must be an extraordinarily charming, knowledgeable and interesting man, and a good listener to boot.

The overall impression the reader gets from these books is one of a Europe at peace with itself and populated for the most part by friendly, helpful, curious and gracious people, few of whom had any inkling of the devastation to come. Perhaps this is attributable to the fact that Fermor spent most of his time in

rural areas and was not concerned with politics or world affairs (looking back with 50 years of hindsight when writing the books, the older Fermor was surprised by his young self's lack of interest).

Reading the books is a bittersweet experience—a last glimpse of the old Europe that was recovering from World War I and would soon be destroyed by World War II. Towards the end of the second book, Fermor describes a conversation with his hosts for a night, an Orthodox rabbi, his two religious sons and secular woodsman brother in a small cabin in the depths of a Bulgarian forest: "In Germany ...terrible omens were gathering, though how terrible none of us knew. [I]t seems utterly incredible now—we talked of Hitler and the Nazis as though they merely represented a dire phase of history, a sort of transitory aberration or a nightmare that might suddenly vanish, like a cloud evaporating...."

Fermor, now in his 90s, is alive and—hopefully—in good health and still writing at his home in Greece. I and his other fans would like to think that someday soon he will fulfill his promise and produce the third volume of his masterpiece.

—Peter Rowntree

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EVENT

On Dec. 5, students of Undermountain Elementary School celebrated the December holidays with magician Debbie O'Carroll. Fifty children enrolled in the free program sponsored by the Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library. O'Carroll entertained the kids with magic tricks and stories about Hanukkah and Christmas as well as some holidays they had never heard of before. The students enjoyed participating in the stories about St. Stephen's Day, Three King's Day, the Indian celebration of Dewali and the Mexican celebration of Las Posadoas.

As with all the half-day programs, Massini and Ormsbee buses dropped the kids off at the library, where they were met by library staff. After a bag lunch and an outdoor recess, the students enjoyed the magic show and then went upstairs and browsed the children's collection. Many took the opportunity to research topics for school and to check out books for pleasure reading.

Watch for more half-day programs at the library on Feb. 5, March 7, and April 3. —June Wolfe, Children's Librarian

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RECOMMENDED READING

Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape. Barry Lopez, editor. (Trinity University Press 2006).

Anyone who loves nature, American history and culture; anyone fascinated with the origin of words; and most importantly anyone entranced with the connectedness between words and place will be delighted with this new addition to the collection of the Bushnell Sage Library.

Barry Lopez, the editor, is a poet and a gifted interpreter of ecology and place. He and 44 other writers, people as different as journalist Bill McKibben and novelist Barbara Kingsolver, have crafted 850 definitions for words we use to describe the American landscape.

The word "acre," for instance. Like many in Sheffield, I live on an acre, a word that describes the measure of my plot of land. I learned from the writer D.J. Waldie that the distant Indo-European root of the word had a different idea. It meant movement, "specifically the movement of flocks driven over open ground." By the 12th century, acre was "the unit of land a man and a yoke of oxen could plow in a day." Then, to bring the word into the 21st century, "an acre is about the same area as an American football field, excluding the end zones."

Or the word "field." Most of us live in Sheffield. It is also the most common place name for a Berkshire town: Pittsfield, Sandisfield, Middlefield or Plainfield come to mind, all helping us to recall the dominant presence of our landscape, the Housatonic River, whose floodplains created open space for our communities. Here's how Barbara Kingsolver defines it: "A field of cleared or open ground is presumed to have some purpose: a cornfield, a pasture field, a minefield, and a fallow field all have their special jobs to do. Even a field of wildflowers is so described because of its value as a spectacle. Otherwise it would just be a meadow."

Or "groundwater." This is a word of special interest to Sheffield. We are blessed with superior resources of groundwater, but it is a fragile resource. Donna Seaman notes: "It may be either original water introduced by magmatic processes (water that has never been in the atmosphere, some of which is thousands of years old), or meteoric water collected via the percolation downward of rainwater, snowmelt, or seepage from surface bodies (and which can also be thousands of years old)." She concludes with a sobering reminder that even in places like Sheffield it is very vulnerable.

Finally, "pond." Sheffield has two dominant ponds—Three Mile and Mill—and many smaller bodies. Michael Collier writes, "Pond is one of the most flexible words for describing a small body of freshwater. Uplift, landslides, volcanoes, and glaciers can create ponds, as can human beings and animals. Beavers are great ponders, and so are farmers." On the other hand, "At least since 1641, the English have referred jocularly to the Atlantic Ocean as the 'great pond.'" "Regardless of size, location, or purpose," he concludes, "any pond can become the radiant and beguiling point of a landscape, even a muddy or algae-covered farm pond that's nothing more than an isolated earthen water tank."

You get the idea. My wife and I traveled to Lenox recently to

hear Lopez talk about the book. Somebody asked him about the word "cobble." Lopez ruefully admitted it had not made the cut for inclusion. But our Webster Unabridged Dictionary was helpful. It talked about "cobble stones" and it pointed us to "cobblers" and "cobbling." Perhaps Bartholomew's Cobble is just that—a huge cobble stone cobbled together by geologic time?

—John G. Wightman

LIBRARY NEWS

Legislative breakfast. On Fri., March 2, the Library will host the annual Berkshire County "Library Legislative Breakfast." This will be the first time this important event has been held in Sheffield. The breakfasts bring together scores of library dignitaries—librarians, library trustees, state library officials, state legislators as well as ordinary folk—to hear about and discuss matters of common interest, such as the financial, technical and other support provided by the state as well as new developments in the library world. It will start at 7:30am. The public is invited but must pre-register and pay a small admission fee (to defray the cost of breakfast). Call the Library for details.

Gifts of the season for the Library. Our heartfelt thanks to Josef and Mimi Krysiak for their generous gift of the extremely comfortable and sleep-inducing rocking chair, which now graces the periodicals reading area. Also to Don and Clare Ward for winterizing the potted plants in the front of the Library. And, finally, to Town Hall (Rhonda in particular) for the handsome ficus tree that used to sit in the entryway to the Selectmen's meeting room.

Martin Luther King Day program. The annual Martin Luther King Day event, co-sponsored by the Sheffield Historical Society and the Library, will be held at the Library on Mon., Jan. 15. This year the theme will be the important role played by baseball and what were then known as the "negro leagues" in the long struggle by African-Americans for dignity and equal rights. There will be reminiscences of local seniors, music and song. All are welcome and admission is free.

—Peter Rowntree

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MAKE IT AN EVEN BETTER PLACE

The Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library, a nonprofit organization formed more than 10 years ago, is dedicated to supporting the Bushnell-Sage Library and its needs. It was founded around the time architect Max Ferro came up with the idea of moving the library into the empty Sheffield Center School from its previous location in the little brick building on the corner of Berkshire School Rd. and Route 7, allowing that building to become the police station, which had previously been squeezed into town Hall.

The state grant that funded the remodeling of the old school required that furnishings and equipment for the new library be paid for by the town or by privately raised money. The Friends took on the task of coming up with funds for tables and chairs and other furnishings, aided by the co-chairs of the Library Building Committee, Don Zeigler and Jim Larkin. The Friends were able to meet the challenge, thanks to the generous support of Sheffield citizens—both long-time residents and part-timers—and of local businesses. The community's generous support continues to this day.

In that first fund-raising effort, the Friends raised \$80,000 to furnish the new library. The organization continues to purchase needed furniture and other equipment as the library has grown. Since then, the Friends have raised more than \$50,000 to assist with the Library's innovative and expanding programs and services. Here are some examples:

- The Friends have been supplementing the Town budget—by \$25,000 so far—so the library can afford a children's librarian.
- They donated \$4,000 to purchase and install the gazebo that now sits to the south of the library and make subsequent repairs.
- They gave \$5,000 for repaving the drive and parking lot.
- Thanks to some careful shopping by two members of the Friends, only \$8,000 was needed to renovate and upgrade the kitchen in the basement, a real bargain. In addition, equipment and labor for the project were donated.
- The Friends donated \$1,000 for a large screen TV for the downstairs meeting room.
- Over the years, they spent some \$10,000 on the purchase of books to expand the special gardening, cooking and natural history collections.
- The Friends donated \$2,400 for computer internet connections.
- The group, through the donations given when books are overdue, gave \$2,700 for three new computers for patron use.
- The Friends gave money to buy the comfortable sofa and chairs for the periodical reading area and various pieces of office equipment and supplies.

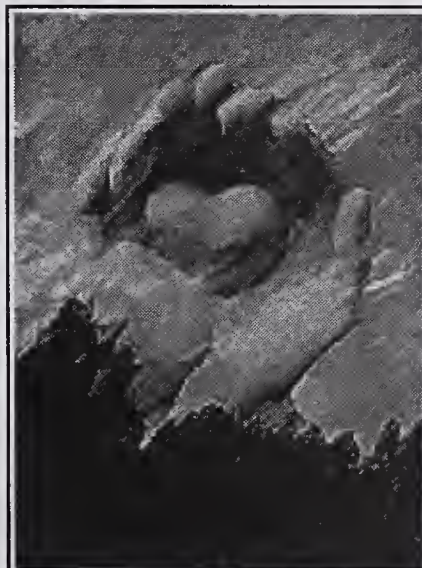
The Friends also help fund some of the Library's special programs. For instance, they donated money to hire a magician as part of a new program to entertain elementary school students when the public schools are closed for teacher conferences. They have also provided special support for the children's summer reading program.

In some ways, even more important than the financial support given by the Friends is the vast amount of time spent by these volunteers on behalf of the Library and the Town. For instance, the Friends prepare and serve morning coffee and snacks to authors and visitors on Local Authors Day, and they prepare and serve a splendid homemade luncheon to the authors. They provide and serve refreshments at the readings the Library hosts throughout the year and provide volunteer labor at the library's book sales.

The Friends themselves host events, open to all. These have included the reception in conjunction with Sheffield in Celebration Day each September, birthday parties in honor of community stalwarts like Inez Flinn and Virginia Drury and festive luncheons such as dedications of the garden in front of the library in honor of Millie Smith and the gazebo, presented by the Friends in honor of the second librarian, John Campbell. In the next month, the Friends will be hosting, as in past years, January 15's Martin Luther King Day program.

Anyone interesting in helping the library is welcome to join the Friends or come to one of its meetings. The group meets monthly at the library at 9am on the second Saturday of each month. For more information, call Nancy Hahn at the library, 229-7004.

—Patrick Owen Burns



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FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

9/18—The Designer Selection Committee for the Senior Center will be interviewing four firms next week and will give a recommendation to the Selectmen for the Oct. 2 meeting. Home Land Design sent a letter with a proposal to work with the architect on the design of the Senior Center. The information will be passed on to the Committee. The board appointed Peter Traub to the Committee after Town Administrator Bob Weitz read a letter from him requesting appointment.

American Legion President Mark Bachetti was at the meeting to discuss the transfer of land from the Legion to the town for the new Senior Center. Chairman David Macy noted that approval was needed at a town meeting before the transfer and suggested that in the meantime the town pay for utilities and maintenance on the property. The board voted to do so.

David Smith from the Kiwanis was granted permission to hold a roadside cleanup on two miles of road to be determined by the Board of Selectmen on Nov. 7, Sheffield being one of the seven towns in which the Kiwanis is doing such a cleanup. The Highway Superintendent will be contacted for his input.

Three unusual requests were received for abatement of solid-waste fees. Thomas Wiehl of Hewins St. requested the over-age-70 abatement for his two homes, but since such abatements are allowed only on a person's primary residence, the second abatement was denied. After a discussion about two abatement requests for vacant properties, the requests were tabled to gain more background information. [See 10/2 for resolution.]

The board approved the application from Christ Church for a temporary event sign for a silent auction to be held on Oct. 7.

Selectman Julie Hannum gave an update on the Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee's work. Selectman Hannum noted that Sheffield elementary school students have been selected to participate in an essay contest. [See story on page 7.] She thanked Administrator Weitz for his help with the Town Hall informational table that was set up at Sheffield in Celebration and suggested a committee be formed to decide about the Town Hall

parking area. She has received inquiries from people who would like to be on the committee. She also congratulated the Library on their new computers.

The board appointed Peter Marks as an intermittent highway worker on an as-needed basis. Currently there is an opening in the Highway Dept. for a full-time driver/laborer. Selectman Hannum noted she would like to discuss the appointment of Council on Aging members at a future meeting.

Chairman Macy stated that he received a critical letter regarding the library. He expressed his appreciation to the library and trustees for the excellent job they do.

The board adjourned to executive session to discuss real estate transactions.

10/2—Chairman Macy reminded everyone of the correct procedure for sending correspondence to the Board of Selectmen. Letters to individual board members will not be reviewed. The members of the Board of Selectmen cannot operate as individuals. Anyone wishing to send a letter to the board should send the correspondence to the Selectmen's office, where it is dated and put in a binder for review. After review, the Chairman determines whether to place it on the agenda. Anyone wishing to talk directly to a member of the Board of Selectmen may do so and any issue raised will be discussed with the Chairman to determine if it should be placed on the agenda. Not all issues received will be brought before an open meeting and only issues under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen will be discussed. Executive sessions will not be commented on in public.

Macy said that recently board members received a letter that is outside the board's jurisdiction. Priscilla Cote, present at the meeting, said that the letter that was being referred to was addressed to the Board of Selectmen, Town of Sheffield, but Macy noted that the letter was sent to individual board members and not the Selectmen's office. Discussion ensued regarding the procedure for addressing the Board of Selectmen, what issues fall under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen and distinctions between elected and ap-

pointed officials.

Catherine Miller, chair of the Senior Center Designer Selection Committee, presented recommendations from the committee for choosing among the seven design proposals received. Four were chosen for interviews. The committee ranked them in this order: 1. Reinhardt Associates; 2. Barry Architects; 3. Clark and Green; 4. John James. The board decided to accept the recommendations from the committee and negotiate with the designers in the recommended order. [See 10/23.]

Discussion ensued regarding appointment of the Senior Center Building Committee. A public notice will be posted asking for interested members to serve on the committee and appointments will be made at the next meeting. The board appointed Bruce Philbrick to the Senior Center Building Committee as the representative for the American Legion. Pauline Schumann commended the Selectmen and the Town for its progress with the Senior Center and discussions on senior housing.

The board discussed past practice for issuing solid-waste user abatements to vacant houses. The board then voted to deny abatements to Wendy Hamilton at 1247 Barnum St., Ken Cooper at 41 South Main St. and Judith Schnurr at 9 Pheasant Lane.

The board approved a temporary sign for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Drama Program, to be erected on Oct. 9 and removed on Oct. 23. Selectman Hannum reported on some of the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce events she has attended on behalf of the town (a Chamber member) and congratulates them on their new Berk-Shares program. She recently attended an Emergency Planning Fair and brought back emergency number magnets for distribution.

Andy Cote stated that people are disposing of their trash in public dumpsters along Main St. The Police Dept. will be asked to patrol and watch for anyone dumping trash there.

10/17—Administrator Weitz read a letter from the state Department of Agricultural Resources announcing their intent to purchase an interest in approximately

67 acres of the Egerton farm property for agricultural preservation purposes.

Administrator Weitz gave an update on the Town Hall parking area. Gravel has been added and it will sit for the winter. In the spring/summer a walkway, planting and paving will be completed.

Following receipt of the gravel bed inspection report on the Kradel gravel mine, Chairman Macy stated that he would like to have Beverly Kradel and her representative invited to the next meeting to discuss the report and issues it raises. [See 11/20.]

The board approved an application from the Sheffield Friendly Library Association [*proprietors of Dewey Hall; also known as the Sheffield Friendly Union*] to place a sign on the Village Green for their indoor farmer's market in November and December. The sign will be put up on Saturday morning and will be removed Saturday afternoon after the market.

The board accepted one resignation and made several appointments. Conservation Commission member Scott Smith resigned from the commission effective immediately. The board accepted the resignation and voted to send a letter thanking him for his service. Following a recommendation by the Board of Health, the Board of Selectmen appointed Locke Larkin as health inspector. Following a recommendation by the Planning Board, the Board of Selectmen appointed Bill Gillyooly as alternate delegate to Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The board appointed David Smith Sr., as Agricultural Commission Alternate after he had expressed interest in serving. Selectman Hannum asked to have the vacancies on the Conservation Commission, Board of Health and Parking Lot Ad Hoc Committee posted; anyone interested in serving on these boards or commissions should contact the Town Administrator or the Board of Selectmen's office.

Selectman Hannum would like to invite the chairman of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area to attend a future meeting along with the Historical Society to discuss their program.

Vito Valentini inquired about flooding the pavilion at the Town Park for a skating rink; Weitz will follow up.

10/23—The board voted to sign a contract with Reinhardt Associates for design services for the Senior Center upon final review of language and terms.

The board's additional appointments

to the Senior Center Building Committee were announced after Chairman Macy noted the board had identified those interested in serving and Selectman Hannum noted she was looking for a good cross-section of the community.

Those appointed are Charles (Carl) Schumann, James McGarry, Joe Wilkinson, Laura Grunfeld, Rene Wood, Mary Joch and David Smith Sr. A committee meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible.

The board also appointed Frank Barros Jr. as a probationary firefighter.

The board approved a temporary sign advertising Local Authors Day to be erected by the Bushnell Sage Library Trustees on Nov. 3 and removed on Nov. 5.

11/15—The board approved and signed the warrant for the Dec. 4 special town meeting.

The Selectmen will review the applications for the position of director of the Sheffield Senior Center and choose three or four applicants to interview by Nov. 20. Pauline Schumann, chair of the Sheffield Council on Aging will participate in the interviews. [See story on page 4.]

11/20—The board decided to interview Penelope Carey, Beth Harlan and John Arthur Miller for the position of director of the Sheffield Senior Center.

Beverly Kradel and Joe Wilkinson attended the meeting to discuss the report from Tighe and Bond about the gravel mine on the Kradel property on East Stahl Rd. which Wilkinson runs. Chairman Macy noted that the quarterly reports from White Engineering have been late and inconsistent. Quarterly reports should be submitted even when there is minimal activity. Wilkinson will contact White Engineering.

The report noted that materials were not on site to deal with possible spills. Wilkinson stated that each of his trucks contains a spill package. The Selectmen said they are satisfied with the site's gravel driveway based on their site visit. Wilkinson will check with White Engineering regarding the storm-water prevention plan. The Selectmen requested that the quarterly reports be kept up-to-date and requested a letter from Wilkinson stating that his trucks contain spill packages.

Discussion ensued regarding the amount of the invoice from Tighe and Bond. Wilkinson requested that a local engineer be hired for the next review to minimize the cost. Selectman Macy said

that he was impressed with the operation of the gravel bed.

Rick Boardman gave an update on the four Sheffield students attending the vocational agricultural program at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Connecticut. The town pays the tuition and the parents provide the transportation. Selectman Hannum suggested that these students get in touch with the Agricultural Commission.

A letter was received from Mass Highway Dept. regarding the Town's request to move the crosswalk at the Library driveway saying it will not do so because the crosswalk does not meet current accessibility criteria. In the current position, the walk is grandfathered and exempt. Also, the thermoplastic markings are nearly impossible to remove. The next time that Route 7 is resurfaced the crosswalk will be moved.

Administrator Weitz read a memo from Catherine Miller, chair of the School Committee, regarding the District Buildings Evaluation Report. A meeting will be held on Dec. 7 to discuss the report and any actions that should be taken. Chairman Macy stated that the building report was an important issue, and he would like the entire board to attend the meeting.

A notice was received from Douglas MacDonald regarding a forest cutting that will take place in the vicinity of Water Farm Rd. The town owns an abutting piece of property.

Chairman Macy would like to begin holding joint Selectmen meetings with the five surrounding towns. This was done in the past and was very productive. Discussions were held regarding all phases of town government and the school district. After the holidays, Chairman Macy would like Sheffield to host the first one.

Selectman Hannum stated that the Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee would hold a meeting on Nov. 29, and that a final report for the Smart Growth Grant will be submitted to the Selectmen and Planning Board. [See story on page 17.]

12/4—After discussion, the board voted to appoint John Arthur Miller as Senior Center Director. The board also voted to appoint him to the Senior Center Building Committee if he is amenable to serving and has the time. [See story on page 4.]

PLANNING BOARD

In November and December, the Planning Board spent considerable time finalizing zoning by-law warrant articles and creating a voter information packet for the special town meeting (see page 1).

In other business, the board received and processed a request seeking waivers from Chris Weld for length, width and grade on a common driveway to serve four houses on Soda Springs Farm on Home Rd. The board arranged a site visit to walk the proposed common driveway, including the section to be built, with Fire Chief Rick Boardman to learn of the fire and police departments' safety recommendations. Weld later requested a waiver on surface material. The board provided him a letter stating the conditions for approval of the common driveway, which included width, pullout and maintenance requirements. The board granted the requested waivers, subject to the conditions stated in the board's letter.

The board also listened to Weld's inquiry regarding creating a distillery either on his farm property or in an appropriately zoned district and referred him

to the building inspector for review of zoning districts and to the town administrator for liquor license requirements.

Seven Form A's (ANRs, or approval not required for development) were endorsed:

- William Egerton, trustee for the Egerton Family Trust, to create a five-acre lot at 707 South Main St., outside of the agricultural preservation restriction (APR) the family is securing for the surrounding property.

- Richard and Marjery Kirchner and Bernard and Deborah Kirchner, for properties on Salisbury Rd., to swap land for road frontage, which would provide enough frontage to the adjacent parcel for it to become a lot.

- Steve Seward on behalf of Todd M. Driscoll Inc., to divide the property at South Main Street (just to the north of Berkshire Fence) into two lots.

- Salisbury Road LLC, (Ronald Durning Sr., Samuel Herrick and Tom Whalen), to divide property on Salisbury Rd., at the corner of Barnum St., into two lots.

- Bruce Howden, to create a 12-acre parcel under APR from adjacent farm property on Rannapo Rd.

- Bruce Howden, to create a five-acre parcel, including the brick house and the barn, from property on Rannapo Rd.

- Thomas A. Hyman, to divide property at the intersection of Old Joe and Home roads into two lots.

The board accepted two special permit applications:

- Steve Seward, for property located at 534 South Main St., in the Commercial District, to do a "major commercial development and have the right to sublet." The public hearing is Tues., Jan. 16 at 8pm.

- COG Brewing Co., 534 South Main St., for "light manufacturing use, a micro-brewery." The public hearing is set for Feb. 6 at 8pm.

The board's acceptance of a special permit application from Lisa Bartzsch, Stone Countertop Fabrication Business, to do light manufacturing at 1347 Main St., in the General Business District,

was deferred due to questions regarding permitted uses and subletting in the General Business District. The board hoped to resolve questions by its Dec. 19 meeting.

The board continued its review of its Form A application form and procedures. A public hearing will be held in the first quarter of 2007 to receive public input on recommended changes.

The board forwarded a letter regarding zoning enforcement to the building inspector, who is also the zoning enforcement officer, and the Board of Selectmen, for whom the building inspector works. As the board explained in its reply, it has no authority in enforcement matters.

The Planning Board held a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee and its two subcommittees to receive a report on its work to date (see opposite page).

The board scheduled a public hearing for Jan. 2 to get input on the adoption of interim rules and regulations until revised ones that support the new zoning by-laws are completed. The board believes that adopting the rules and regulations found in the previous by-laws will provide a smooth transition for both the public and the board. The newly adopted by-laws and the other zoning warrant articles were forwarded to the Attorney General's office for mandatory review.

Business discussed at the Dec. 19 meeting will be reviewed in the next issue.

Board meetings are the first and third Tuesday in the first-floor conference room, Town Hall. **NOTE:** Beginning Jan. 2, the board will switch to its winter hours: and meetings will be held at 7pm (not 7:30pm). Meetings are posted and open to the public. All are welcome. —Rene Wood, Chairman

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SMART GROWTH GRANT UPDATE

The Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant for FY2006 ended Dec. 31. A final report on this Smart Growth grant will be made to the Board of Selectmen at their Jan. 16 meeting.

It will note the successful completion of a huge project, the revision of the town's zoning by-laws (see story, page 1), along with updating Sheffield's water protection district by-laws (approved at the May town meeting) and continuing work on implementing Sheffield's Master Plan.

The Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee and its two subcommittees made their last report of the year to a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board on Dec. 1. Jeanne Armstrong, the project consultant, and Tom Matuszko from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission joined the group. Since one

focus of the grant was understanding subcommittee dynamics and the process of getting going, members took time to look back over the past nine months and see how much has been accomplished. Members of the two boards, as well as others present, complemented the committee and its subcommittees' on their accomplishments. For more on the progress of the subcommittees, see the story on page 1.

Sheffield's application for a smart-growth grant in the next fiscal was not selected for funding. Grant funding was lower than last year and towns not previously receiving a grant seemed to be favored. Sheffield is among a small number of towns that had previously been awarded two of these grants. The town is expected to submit an application in spring 2007 for the next grant cycle.

—R.W.

TOWN CLERK

Annual street list due. Full-time residents will receive their 2007 annual street list (census) by the end of the first week in January. Please take a moment to read it over carefully, make any necessary changes, and return it to the Clerk's office as soon as possible. This is the only mailed reminder that will be sent. Please keep it in a safe place.

If you are a resident of Ashley Falls, your form will read "Sheffield" as your residential town. Please do not change this, as the state only recognizes Sheffield as the residential town. We know that you live in Ashley Falls.

Landlord census. A reminder to all landlords that have not responded to the landlord census, please get your forms back to us as soon as possible.

Sporting/hunting and fishing licenses available. Licenses and stamps for 2007 are available at the Clerk's office during regular business hours. Note there are some changes for the 2007 licensing season: when purchasing a license, a prior year's license or duplicate needs to be presented. If you do not have the license, you will need proof of a hunter-safety course. Firearms Identification (FID) cards will no longer be accepted. Without proof, we will not be able to issue a license.

Dog licenses. Licenses for 2007 go on sale March 1. Current licenses expire on March 31. You have until April 30 to

renew. As of May 1, a delinquent fee of \$25 per dog will be charged.

If your dog is spayed or neutered, the license cost is \$4. If your dog is intact, the fee is \$10. You can obtain a license in person or by mail. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a check payable to "Town of Sheffield" and proof of rabies vaccination to Town Clerk, PO Box 175, Sheffield, MA 01257. If you do not include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, we will not return your license.

The Scouts will be holding an annual rabies clinic on Sat., March 24 from 1-3pm at the Town Hall parking lot. The cost is \$10. The Clerk's office will be open during that time for licensing convenience.

The Clerk's office is open weekdays, 9am-4pm to answer any questions.

TAX COLLECTOR

Preliminary real-estate tax bills went out at the end of December. Due to a delay in the triennial recertification of property values and setting a tax rate, this is a preliminary bill and will be the same amount as your August and November 2006 payments. Actual tax bills will be mailed in February. If you have any questions, call the Tax Collector's office at 229-7007.

RECYCLING

Thank you for your recycling efforts over the past year. We are looking forward to another productive year in 2007. Here's a reminder about recycling paper:

You can include corrugated boxes and paperboard gift boxes along with newspapers and magazines. Don't put gift wrap, ribbons, tissue paper, bows, tinsel, boxes with plastic coating or windows, packing peanuts, plastic packing material/bubble wrap, or Styrofoam in the paper receptable.

HIGHWAY DEPT.

The Highway Dept. would like to remind residents not to park on public streets during winter storms.

TOWN PHONE NUMBERS

Administrator	229-7000
Assessors	229-7001
Building Inspector	229-7006
Fire Dept.	
non-emergency	229-7033
Library	229-7004
Police Dept.	
non-emergency	229-8522
School District	229-8778
Senior Center	229-7007

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PROFILE: NEIGHBORGOODS

One of the nicest aspects of small-town living is knowing your neighbors. Caitlin Hotaling has taken this concept one step further. Her small (but growing) store, Neighborgoods Local Creations, located on the Green in the middle of town, keeps us abreast of what our neighbors are capable of.

For instance, have you seen Kerry's pottery or read Sue's books? Did you know that Gisela creates fashion-plate ladies from photos of faces and scraps of lace, or that Pam and Elizabeth make jewelry? Jack builds birdhouses, Julia makes paper, Tom records music, Grace makes hats, Hannah sews handbags from scraps. All of these items and dozens more are for sale at Neighborgoods, the store that brings neighbors into contact with one another in a whole new way.

Ask Caitlin about any of the finely crafted objects she carries, and she'll tell you all about them. "There's a story behind every creation," she says. She knows what the cunning little toys made from socks are stuffed with and whether they're washable. She knows which of the offerings are made totally from scratch and which ones are creatively embellished. Her husband, Ed, will gleefully show you the fairies he discovered in the centers of the pressed pansy necklaces.

If you ask Caitlin about the store's beginnings, she'll tell you a story as creative as any of the things she sells. "I liked the idea

of Berkshire Grown. There are a number of residents who make bread, gather honey, sell eggs, or grow produce. I thought maybe I'd open a store to sell these things." But her husband pointed out that keeping a food store open would require extra-long hours, especially if she planned to serve freshly brewed coffee to the 6am crowd. "So then I thought, why not offer non-perishable 'Berkshire grown' products?"

She knew a few local residents who were accomplished craft-people. She contacted them, ran her idea about a venue past them and signed them up. In turn, they gave her more names to call and when the space next to Silk's Pharmacy sported a "For Rent" sign a week later, she thought, "I guess this was meant to be."

She opened Neighborgoods (a condensation of Neighborhood Goods, one of the names she and her husband bandied about in a brainstorm naming session) with offerings from 70 participants. She now carries goods from 120 people all living within a 40-mile radius of Sheffield and ranging in age from 13 to 75. The small room at the back of the store has been converted into more display space and she says, only half laughing, "My office is now in a closet."

The layout of the merchandise is as imaginative as the items displayed. Artwork is hung prominently on the walls. Racks hold pottery and woodenware, woolly angels dance in the window, locally authored books rub covers on a portable bookcase, fabric handbags hang from door handles, quilts are folded like rainbows over wooden bars. There are skeins of handspun yarn, dream catchers with dangling feathers, painted glassware, decorated picture frames, baby items, embroidered linens, belts, ties, candles, painted tiles and jewelry that twinkles under the lights.

"The emphasis is on quality and talent," Caitlin says. "I don't have to call for items anymore. Now people call me or come to the door asking if I might take some of what they make to sell. Now and then someone will come in, look around, and come back a few days later with something they've been inspired to try."

So, if you want to see what Lois has been painting lately, or what's new with Hilda's tile art, or read Hans and Ruth's home-made books, take a look in Neighborgoods. You'll find many of your neighbors are more talented than you knew, and you just might be inspired to go home and create something yourself.

—Pauline Clarke

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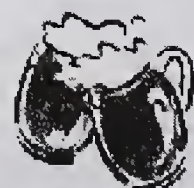
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PROFILE: SEBASTIAN'S SALON & SPA

Sebastian's Salon & Spa, located on Route 7 at 647 N. Main St., has been a favorite among South County locals since its establishment in 1992 and now serves people from Connecticut and New York as well.

When Sebastiano Anselmi decided to move his family and salon business from the Bronx to the Berkshires, he and his wife, Annie, knew they were taking a risk. But Sebastian is no stranger to risks. At the age of 16, he said good-bye to his native Italy and ventured forth to America to do what he knew best—style and cut women's and men's hair and trim beards and mustaches—without speaking English.

After 15 years in the Bronx, Sebastian opened his first Sheffield salon, a small two-person shop in the center of Sheffield. After eight years in that location, he moved up the road to where Babies in Bloom is now operating.

And then two Redken-trained hair stylists from New York City—Annie Juhlin-Pothul and Patrice Dean—walked into his life. With their expertise, Sebastian was able to offer a variety of coloring techniques, foils, glazes, perms, and high-end hairstyles. Within two years, the business had expanded enough for Sebastian to move to larger quarters. The nursery across from Limey's had recently closed, and now the salon is comfortably housed in that blue post-and-beam building with plenty of parking.

The new building has a loft upstairs. That space has allowed Holly Cavanaugh, licensed nail technician, to take Sebastian's Salon to a new level, offering pedicures, regular and French manicures and acrylic fills, using OPI and Essie prod-

ucts. Patrice Collé, RN and nutritionist, added massage services to the menu. And in November, Candice Tuthill, another Redken-trained hair stylist, joined the staff.

The salon also offers facials, using Dr. Hauschka skin-care products. In May, Christine Simeone-Kirchner, a licensed esthetician certified to use Dr. Hauschka products, heard that Sebastian's was ready to offer professional makeup services, along with facial and body waxing. "I heard that Sebastian is a great guy to work with, that his cosmetologists and his nail tech are like family to him, his clientele are very pleasant, and that the atmosphere is warm and casual," says Christine, "So I walked in and became part of the family."

Christine insisted on working with Iredale Mineral Cosmetics, the skin-care makeup she trained with in esthetics school. "I can't sell something I don't wear myself, and I won't put anything else on my skin. I think my clients know that I am serious about taking care of their skin as well as I take care of mine. I tell them to keep it simple, keep it pure."

Iredale Mineral Cosmetics is another local company, based in Great Barrington. The firm sells its products across the U.S. and in 40 countries around the world. The makeup, which emphasizes healthy skin and a healthy look, has proven to be a good fit with Sebastian's, whose clientele favor a natural look.

Sebastiano Anselmi's Salon & Spa has come a long way. Not bad for a boy who started out sweeping floors and holding candles for barbers to cut hair when the electricity went out!

—Sharon Gregory



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

The Annual "What's It?" Night. This popular annual event with Chris Coenen will be held at 7:30pm on Fri., Jan. 12, at Dewey Memorial Hall. Bring along that gizmo or gadget to stump the experts, and get out your thinking caps to identify objects that mystify the mind.

"The Freedom of Baseball." This program is presented by the Historical Society and the Bushnell-Sage Library on Mon., Jan. 15, in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. The program at the Library begins at 1pm. Bring your whole family, dress appropriately if you like, and bring along your favorite baseball memorabilia to share with others. You'll find out how liberating sports, particularly baseball, have been for men and women. Have you heard about the African American baseball teams the Albany Bachelors or the Sheffield Feathertales? The Library and the Historical Society invite you to join us in a family program full of surprises. It's free and open to all.

New children's event: "History Mystery." This collaborative program presented by the Society and the Bushnell-Sage Library will take place on Tues., Feb. 6, at the Library. The half-day school program, based on research from the archives of the Sheffield Historical Society, starts at 12:30 pm. Youngsters will be set on the trail of a mystery involving some aspect of a local child's life from long ago. They may be searching for

when or where a child lived, or where that child went to school. Along the sleuths' journey, they will be given clues—historic photographs, maps, and artifacts—to unravel the mystery. A special historic spirit or two will be on hand to provide personal information about the children. By answering a series of riddles, the young sleuths will learn where the next clue is to be found. To register for this intriguing and fun event, call the Library at 229-7004.

February monthly meeting. It will be held on Fri., Feb. 9, with a program to be announced.

These programs and the exhibition are made possible, in part, by support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Sheffield Historical Society is located on Route 7 in the center of Sheffield. The Old Stone Store is also located on Route 7, on the Green in Sheffield. Winter hours for the Mark Dewey Research Center are Monday and Friday, 1:30 to 4pm, and by appointment. The Dan Raymond House is open by appointment only in the winter. The Society office is open Thursday through Saturday. The Old Stone Store is closed through March. For more information, contact Sheffield Historical Society, 159-161 Main Street, PO Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, 413-229-2694 or email shs@sheffieldhistory.org.



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Phone: 413-229-2694, Email: shs@sheffieldhistory.org

LAND TRUST LECTURE: EDIBLE WILD PLANTS OF NEW ENGLAND

The Sheffield Land Trust invites the community to attend its annual Winter Lecture and Tea on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 3-5pm at Dewey Hall in the Center of Sheffield. Noted naturalist Russ Cohen will introduce over 70 of the tastiest species of wild plants and mushrooms in the New England region, illustrated by a stunning slide show. These range from plants everyone knows well, like daisies and dandelions, to plants people may never have even heard of, like calamus and carrion flower. He'll include about a dozen of the tastiest (and easiest to recognize) mushroom species as well, from morels in the spring, black chanterelles in the summer and hen of the woods mushrooms in the fall. He's found all those locally.

Cohen is a professional environmentalist and wild foods enthusiast. He led an "edibles walk" for the Land Trust in 1997, and the Land Trust is thrilled to welcome him back.

Russ currently resides in Arlington, MA. He grew up in Weston, MA, (where his parents still reside) and spent much of his free time in the woods, thereby cultivating a strong spiritual connection to nature. Russ's first formal exposure to edible wild plants occurred at Weston High School, where as a sophomore he enrolled in an "Edible Botany" course. By his senior year, he was teaching the class. In 1989, he caught the mushroom hunting bug on a trip to the Soviet Union and added edible wild mushrooms to his repertoire.

Russ received his bachelor's degree in land-use planning from Vassar College in 1978 and a masters in natural re-

sources and a law degree from Ohio State University in 1982. He has been employed by the Riverways Program of the Massachusetts Dept. of Fish and Game since 1988 and has served as its rivers advocate since 1992. Past employers also include The Nature Conservancy, the Land Trust Alliance and the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Russ has received several awards for his rivers work, including an Environmental Merit Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2003 and a "Heritage Hero" award from the Essex National Heritage Commission in 2006.

Russ is in his 33rd year of teaching about wild edibles. Last year, he led more than 30 classes/walks from May to October for some two dozen organizations, including the Massachusetts Audubon Society, The Trustees of Reservations and the Appalachian Mountain Club. Russ will return in the fall to lead the Land Trust's Conservation Property Walk, where he expects to encounter at least a dozen of the species that will be covered in February's slide show.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn some delicious facts about our natural community. Following the lecture the traditional delicious tea will be served, and you will be able to speak with Russ and purchase an autographed copy of his book *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten*. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Please arrive early as seating is limited. For more information, contact the Land Trust at 229-0234 or send e-mail to shefland@bcn.net.

—Pat Elsbach

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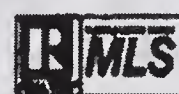
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ANN MORELLI SMITH
SALES ASSOCIATE

KIWANIS NEWS

Raffle news. All members now have their attention focused on the sale of the \$50 Scholarship Raffle Tickets. Our 7th annual event features as the first prize a 2007 GMC Sierra 4x4 truck with automatic transmission, CD player and more (the winner can also choose \$15,000 cash). The second prize is \$1,500 and third prize \$500. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold. They are available from any Kiwanis member or in Sheffield at Silk's Variety, Limey's or PJ's; in Great Barrington at Sears and Pittsfield Co-op Bank. The endowment this year is in memory of H. Lee Kline, who was a long-time Kiwanis member and served as lieutenant governor for several terms. The drawing will be held at Limey's Restaurant at 8pm on Valentine's Day.

Nuts still for sale. There are still some cans of gourmet nuts around—a great buy for three-plus pounds. See a Kiwanis members or stop in at Silk's or Sears.

Holiday gifts. For the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays we delivered turkeys, vegetables and cash to the local food pantries. Our shoppers also bought and wrapped gifts for six "Adopt-a-Family" children for Christmas.

Kiwanis members responded impressively to the "shoe-box" gift drive for needy children in Africa, part of the Samaritan's Purse campaign. The Sheffield group delivered 67 of the shoeboxes filled with essentials, clothing and toys.

Pancake breakfast. The second annual pancake breakfast will be held at the Mt. Everett Cafeteria on Sun., Jan. 7, from 8 to 11:30am. Proceeds will go toward fulfilling

grants to teachers in the district to help them buy materials or finance trips or events for students. Last year we were able to award five such grants. —Richard L. Goodwin

The Sheffield Kiwanis meets Tuesdays at 7pm at Limey's Restaurant

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

October

- 8 Allen Industrial Park LLC to 1375 N. Main Street LLC, property at 1375 North Main St., \$280,000.
- 11 George & Tonya Roussis to Scott M. & Jane E. Simonds, property at Canaan-Clayton Rd., \$72,000.
- 13 Frank C. & Carolyn B. Bushey to Jason C. & Sherie Keefner Ross, property at 158 East Stahl Rd., \$220,000.
- 16 Phyllis Baritz to Gordon & Barbara Hodas, property at 12 Glennana Way, \$420,000.

November

- 1 Robert P. Kerker (estate of) to Salisbury Road LLC, property at 425 Salisbury Rd., \$325,000.
- 6 Jean Henri & Colette A. Sarbib to Lydon Developments LLC, property at North Main St., \$280,000.

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January

- 7 Kiwanis pancake breakfast, Mt. Everett cafeteria, 8-11:30am, p. 21
- 7 Preview of Joint Chiefs concert, Old Parish Church, 10am, p. 9
- 12 Sheffield Historical Society's annual "What's It" night with Chris Coenen, Dewey Hall, 7:30pm, p. 21
- 13 Joint Chiefs concert, Old Parish Church, 7pm, p. 9
- 15 *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
- 15 MLK Jr. Day Event, Bushnell-Sage Library, 12pm
- 15 Sheffield Historical Society presents "The Freedom of Baseball," Bushnell-Sage Library, 1pm, p. 21

February

- 2 *Groundhog Day*
- 5 Half-day elementary student program, Bushnell-Sage Library, p. 11
- 6 Sheffield Historical Society presents "History Mystery," Bushnell-Sage Library, 12:30pm, p. 21
- 10 Sheffield Land Trust presents Wild Edibles lecture and tea, Dewey Hall, 3-5pm, p. 20
- 14 *Valentine's Day*
- 14 Kiwanis raffle drawing, Limey's Restaurant, 8pm, p. 21
- 15 *Sheffield Times* deadline
- 17 "Mardi Gras" missionary benefit, Old Parish Church, 5:30pm, p. 9
- 18 *Chinese New Year*
- 19 *President's Day*
- 20 Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, Christ Church Episcopal, 5-7pm, p. 9
- 21 *Ash Wednesday*

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ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by number – i.e. "1st, "3rd" indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed.

Mondays:

- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am
- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd
- Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays
- Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1st

Tuesdays:

- Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 8am -- Noon
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Support Group, Fairview Hospital Library, 6:30pm, 4th
- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd
- Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
- Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant, 6:30pm

Thursdays:

- Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
- Parent-Child Playgroup, Greenwoods Community Church, 9:30-11:30am
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 5-7pm
- *Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd
- *Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3rd
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th

Saturdays:

- Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4th

Sundays:

- Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd

See also: Church News, p. 9; Library News, p. 12; Kiwanis News, p. 21; Sheffield Historical Society News, p. 21

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